

Message

From: Wu, Jennifer [Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/8/2019 3:10:00 PM
To: Gruen, David E. [gruen.david@epa.gov]
CC: Merz, Martin [merz.martin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Fed Caucus - info on timing of NPES permits

Hey David and Martin, how about something like this?

We are still in the process of working on NPDES permits for the four lower Columbia River dams, four lower Snake River dams, and Grand Coulee Dam and continue to work towards a deadline of releasing permits for public comment by the end of the year. These permits are for oil and grease and cooling water. EPA is also working with the Corps of Engineers on NPDES permit applications for Chief Joseph Dam, Albeni Falls Dam, and Dworshak Dam Reservoir for oil and grease and cooling water.

It's important for you and Mary Lou to know that the hold-up on the permits is that we're waiting for EPA HQ to get a decision to us on how/if to address possible detriments to fish from cooling water intake structures (CWA 316(b)), and we are absolutely, explicitly barred from EPA HQ from discussing this with anyone outside EPA. So you have to be careful about how you message this if they ask what's the hold-up. If they raise it, you can give some cagey answer agreeing, but that's as far as I would go. Senior managers at the Corps and BOR probably know what the issue is since Dan has discussed this before, but please stay clear of specifics at the staff level.

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From: Gruen, David E. <gruen.david@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Wu, Jennifer <Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Merz, Martin <merz.martin@epa.gov>
Subject: Fed Caucus - info on timing of NPES permits

Hi Jenny and Martin,

Thank to both of you for speaking with me today.

Mary Lou liked the idea of updating the Federal Caucus on the expected timing (and/or what would influence the timing) of the NPDES permits for the mainstem dams. We don't want or need to get into the content details of the NPDES permit review/approval.

Can we work together to write up a concise statement? We would also be interested in communicating whatever we know about when EPA may receive NPDES permits from Chief Joseph/Albeni Falls and Dworshak (although I realize you will know more on Friday).

Please contact me with any questions.

Thanks ya'll! See you up in Seattle in a couple weeks!
David

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David Gruen

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